

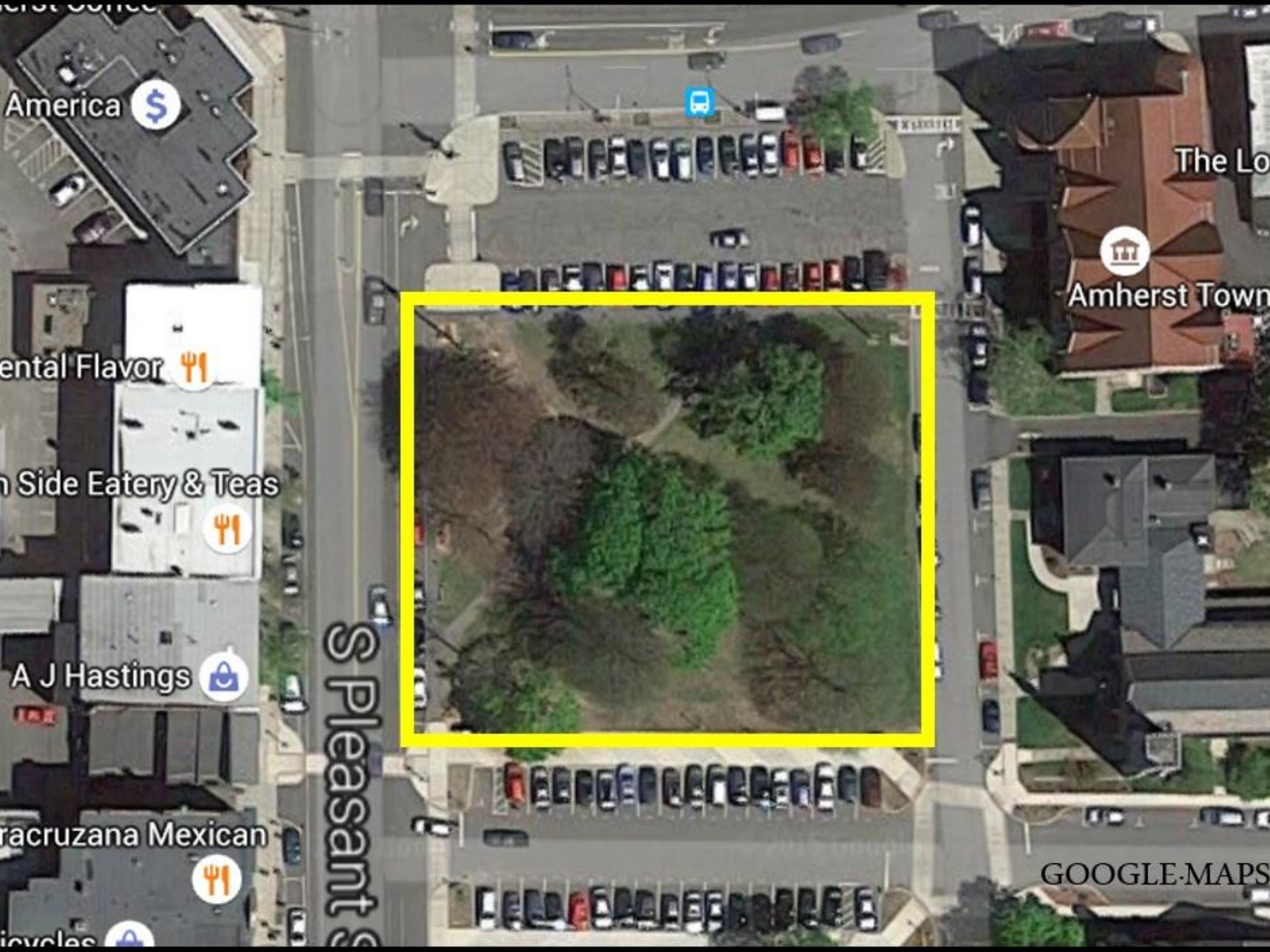
Community Forum to discuss plans for the North Common



Town of Amherst &
Amherst Historical Commission

June 23, 2015

Town Room, Town Hall



America



Mental Flavor



Side Eatery & Teas



A J Hastings



Cruzana Mexican



icycles



Pleasant



The Lo



Amherst Town

GOOGLE-MAPS

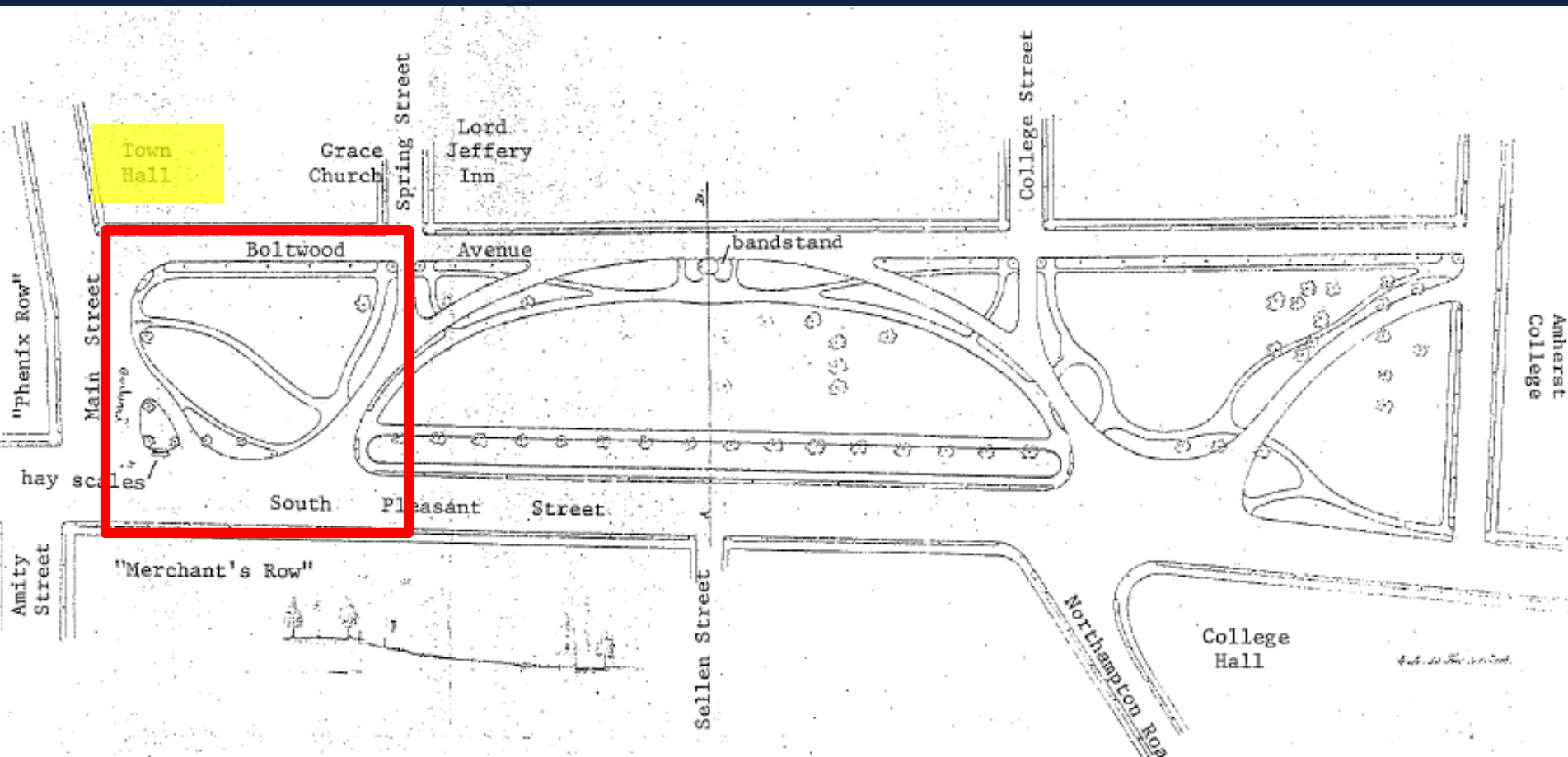
Purpose of public meeting and process moving forward

- Overview of history and existing conditions of the North Common
- Outline PARC grant program
- Review general goals and comments from previous meetings-January 2013 and April 2014
- Hear comments on concept plan

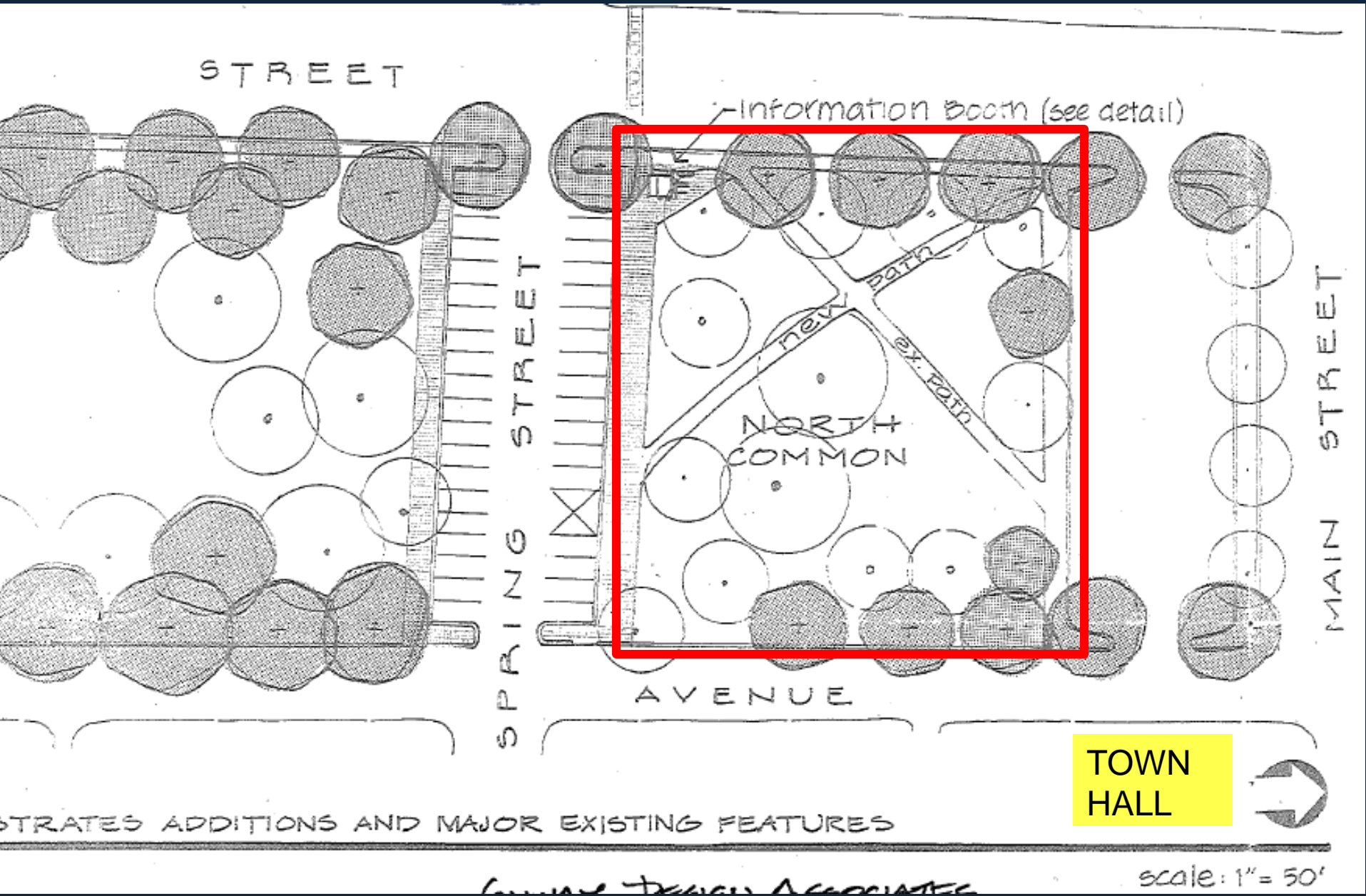
History of the Town Common

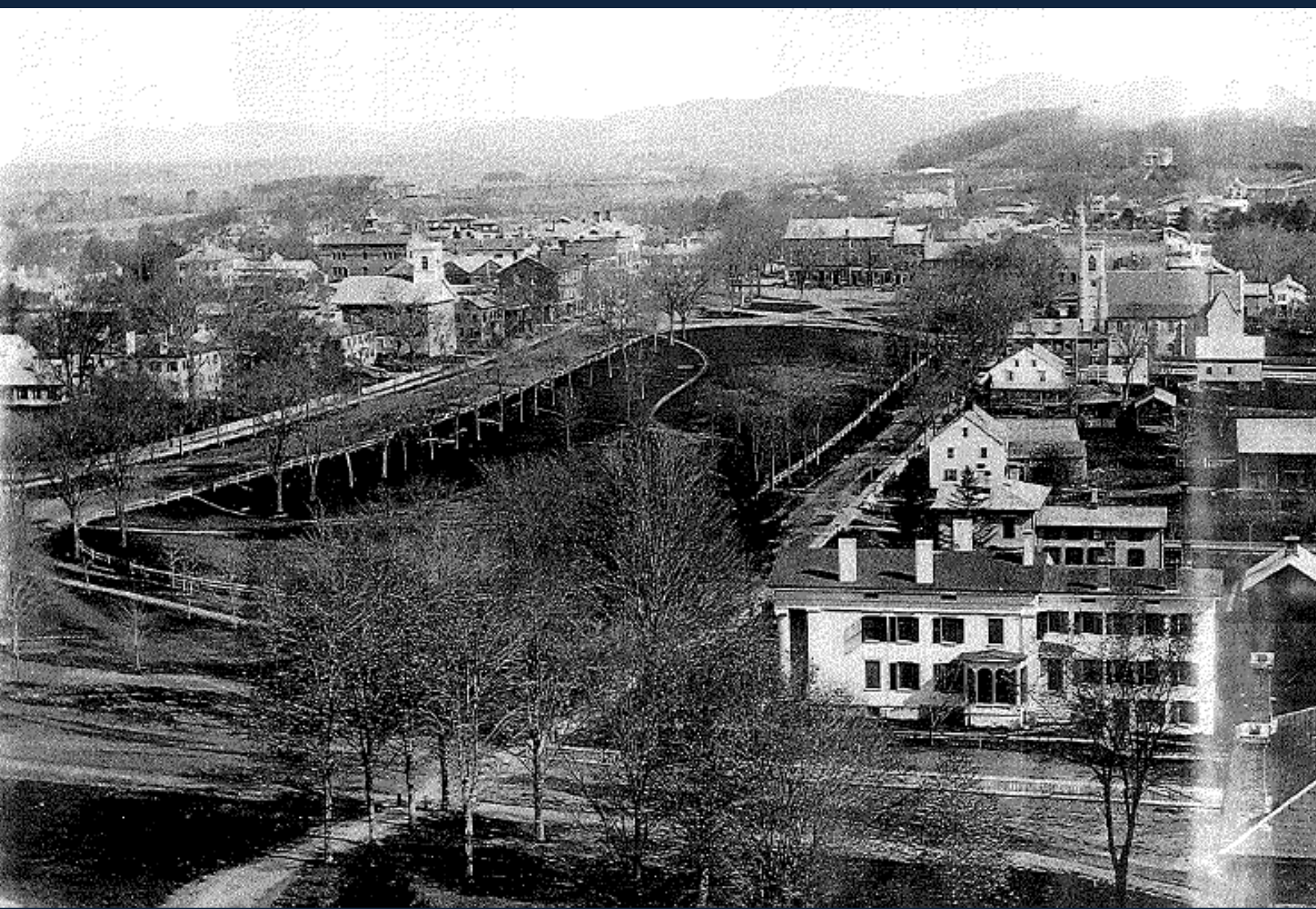
- Town Common is as old as Amherst
- Town Common is part of the road right of way and is not a piece of property
- Amherst Select Board has jurisdiction over the Town Common. Many boards and committees are involved with maintenance and planning of the Common
- It is an original historic common, not a park

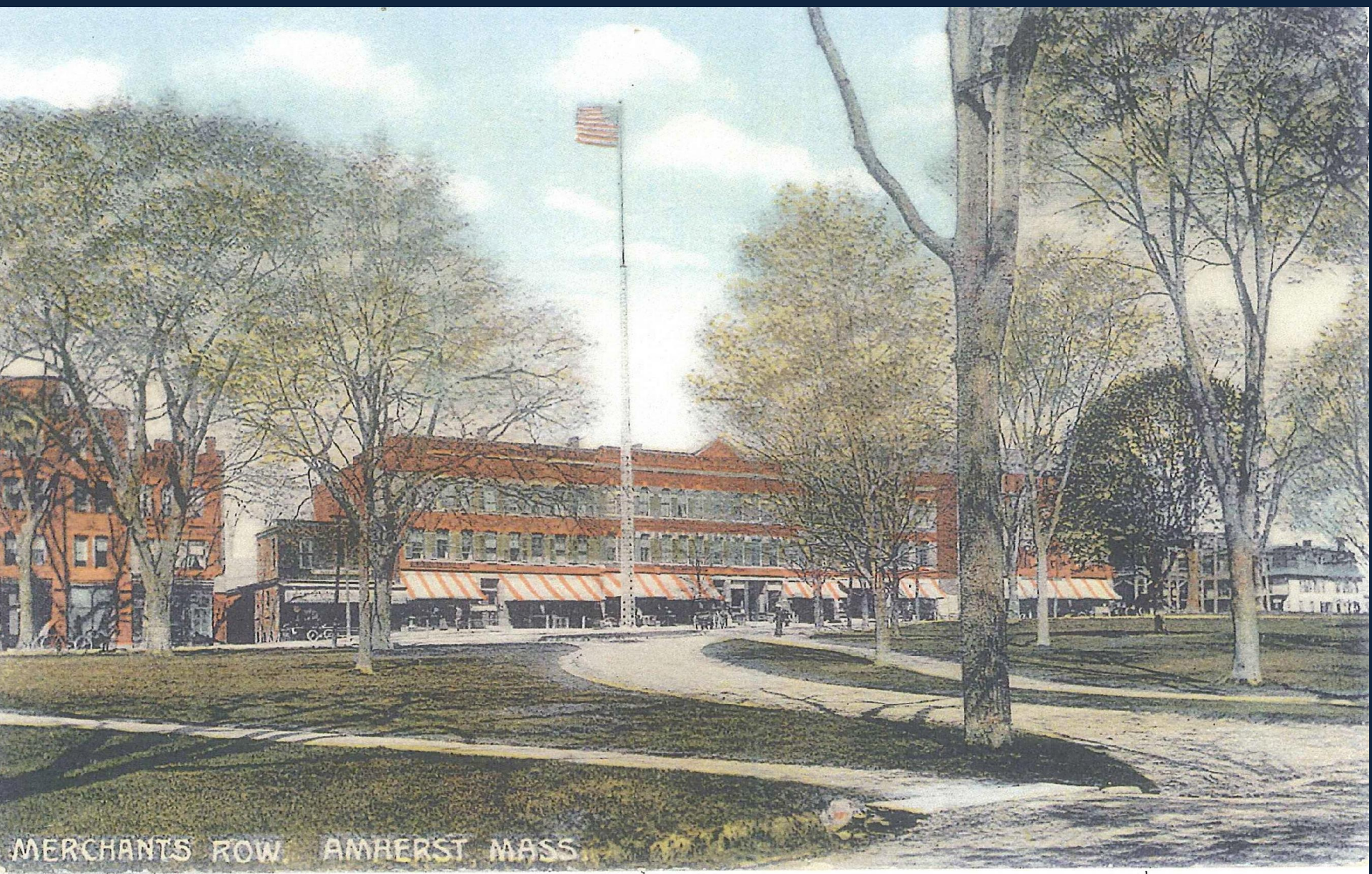
1874 Frederick Law Olmsted Design of Town Common



1986 Conway School of Design—Plan for Town Common







MERCHANTS ROW AMHERST, MASS.



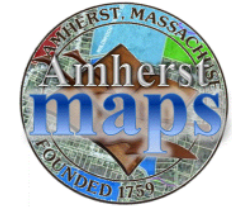
Existing Conditions

- High pedestrian use and frequent events
- Exposed tree roots and compacted soil
- Many public shade trees
- Limited seating
- Poor turf and drainage
- Sloped from Northwest corner (15 ft)

View of North Common and Town Hall from the West



Town Common-Topo and Trees



Property Map

- Property Lines
- Property Line
- Hydrographic Property Line
- Right of Way Line
- Town Boundary
- Easements
- Adjacent Towns Parcels

Topography

- Elevations
- Elevation Contours
- Intermediate
- Index

Basemap

- Street Trees
 - Existing
 - PTL (Planned Tree Location)
 - ATL (Approved Tree Location)
 - NPT (Newly Planted Tree)
 - Removed
 - Stump
- Trails
- Rail Lines
- Structures
 - Building
 - Foundation or Construct.
 - Outbuilding or Misc.
 - Deck, Porch, Stairs
 - Mobile home, Trailer
 - Swimming Pool
 - Building Ruins
 - Water storage tank
- Rivers and Streams
 - Streams
 - Major Culverts
 - Hydro Connector
 - Headwalls, Floodwalls

Horizontal Datum: MA Stateplane Coordinate System, Zone 4151, NAD83, Feet; Vertical Datum: NAVD88, FT
Planimetric & topographic basemap compiled at 1"=40' scale from April, 2009 Aerial Photography. Parcels compiled to match the basemap; revisions are ongoing.

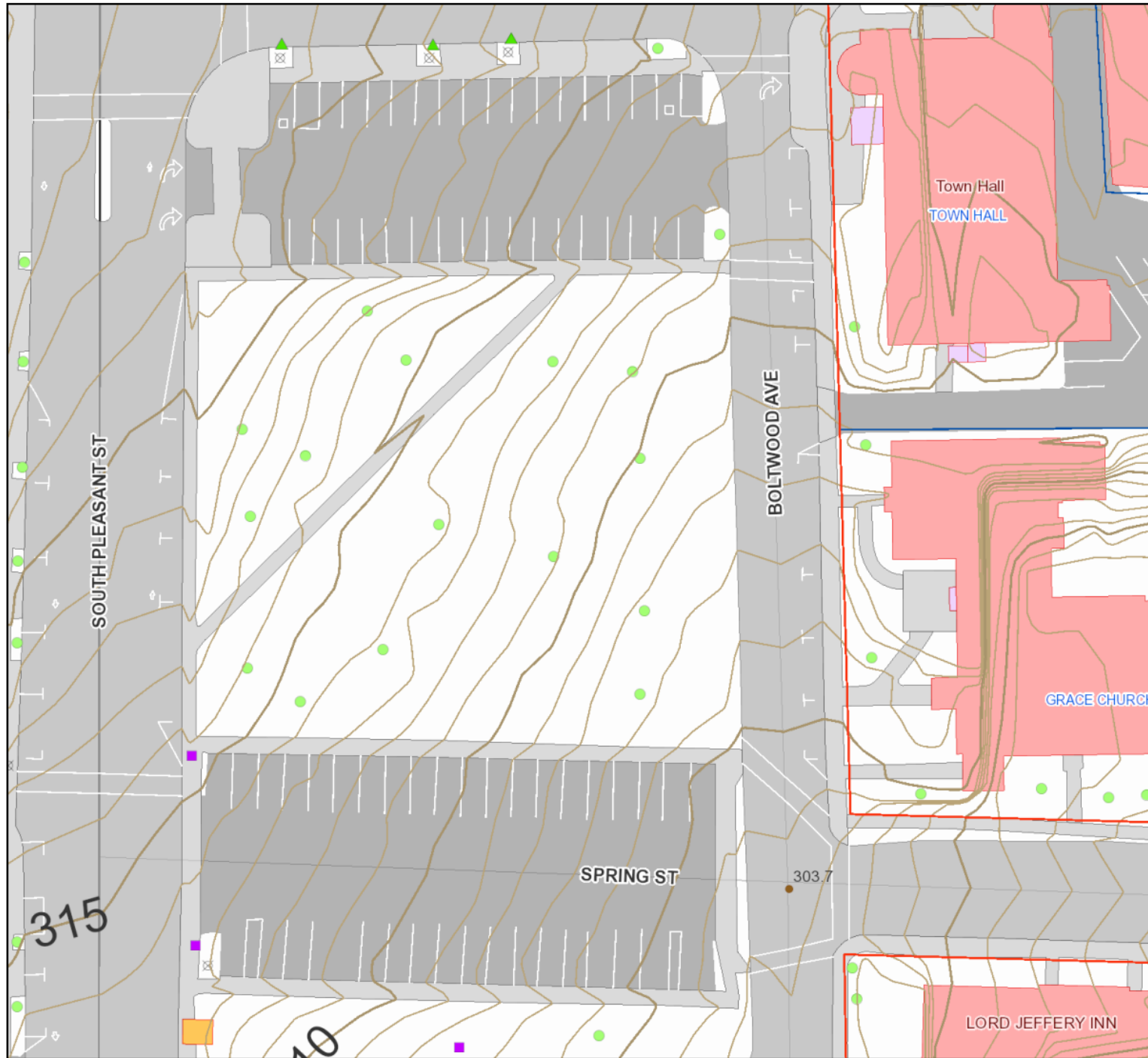
The information depicted on this map is for planning purposes only. It may not be adequate for legal boundary definition, regulatory interpretation, or property conveyance purposes. Utility structures & underground utility locations are approximate & require field verification.

The Town of Amherst makes no warranties, expressed or implied, concerning the accuracy, completeness, reliability, or suitability of these data, & does not assume any liability associated with the use or misuse of these data.

1" = 50 ft

amherstma.gov/maps

June 23, 2015



Spring Street Sidewalk Looking West



Tree Box in Center of North Common



Informal Path leading Southeast Toward Lord Jeff



WTCU Fountain and Paved Pathway



Sidewalk Looking West Toward Town Hall



Sidewalk Along South Pleasant Street Looking South



PARC grant program

- State-sponsored grant program
- Helps communities acquire, develop and rehabilitate parks and other outdoor recreation areas
- Reimbursement grant—Town pays for total project cost and is reimbursed 70%
- 2-year grant: first year design, second year construction

Comments from January 2013

- Key area in downtown for visitors, businesses and families
- Need accessible sidewalks and seating
- Keep as much green space as possible
- Small, flexible plaza(s) for seating or events
- Trees are an important element of the space
- Art and sculpture should be incorporated into design
- Long-term maintenance is an issue
- Have design competition

Comments from April 2014

- Think big and creatively about space
- Small performance space or eliminate it
- Use green infrastructure-permeable pavement, rain gardens
- Small sitting spaces for families and places for children
- Activate the space with design and amenities
- Fix erosion and drainage
- Use plantings and ground cover—not grass—to define areas and paths
- Lighting at night

Moving Forward

- Consider additional design guidelines
- Use Concept A for PARC grant application
- Apply for CPA funding
- Develop partnerships to help implement design

